

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claim 1 was presented for examination. In early January, the undersigned contacted Examiner Lee to find out when the application would be taken up for examination, and informed him that Applicant intended to submit a preliminary amendment prior to the first Office Action. Mr. Lee indicated that he would not be acting on this application until March and then, to Applicant's surprise, issued the outstanding Office Action on January 31, 2005. Now, claim 1, which had been objected to because of an informality and rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Fink et al, has been cancelled and replaced by claims 2-27. In submitting these new claims, Applicant has been fully cognizant of the Fink et al '066 patent and has drafted these claims with that reference in mind, and believes all new claims are allowable.

In the new set of claims, claims 2 and 16 are the only independent claims. They are corresponding article of manufacture and method claims. New claim 2 is drawn to an electrically conductive circuit element formed on a surface using a drop-on-demand deposition technique to deposit multiple droplets of polymeric-based or inorganic-based fluid, the conductivity of the electrically conductive element being in the range from about 1 to about $4 \times 10^5 \text{ S.cm}^{-1}$. In Fink et al, there is no disclosure of "...an electrically conductive circuit element formed on a surface using a drop-on-demand deposition technique to deposit multiple droplets of polymeric-based or inorganic-based fluid...". Furthermore, there is no hint or suggestion of an electrically conductive circuit element having a "...conductivity...in the range from about 1 to about $4 \times 10^5 \text{ S.cm}^{-1}$." That is, there is no disclosure relating to such a circuit element or to a method of forming such a circuit element. There is certainly no suggestion of forming such a circuit element as a diode.

Applicant consequently requests consideration and allowance of the new claims.

Serial No.: 10/760,611
Conf. No.: 9959

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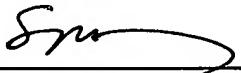
Art Unit: 2818

CONCLUSION

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No.: M0274.70031 US01
Date: 05/02/05
x04/30/05x